

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A lead assembly comprising:

a lead body extending from a lead proximal end to a lead distal end and having an intermediate portion therebetween, the lead body including a tine interface section;

at least one tine coupled with the lead body at a tine coupling portion, each at least one tine having a top surface and a bottom surface, the at least one tine having a first position extended away from the lead body, the at least one tine having a second collapsed position;

at least one first recessed portion formed on the lead body at a first longitudinal location along the tine interface section of the lead body;

at least one second recessed portion formed on the lead body at a second longitudinal location along the tine interface section of the lead body;

the at least one first recessed portion longitudinally disposed between the tine coupling portion and the at least one second recessed portion; and

wherein the at least one first recessed portion is recessed away from the bottom surface of the at least one tine when the at least one tine is disposed in the second collapsed position.

2. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one first recessed portion extends only a portion around a perimeter of the lead body.

3. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the lead body has a first cross-sectional area at the at least one first recessed portion, and the lead body has a second cross-sectional area at the at least one second recessed portion, and the first cross-sectional area is smaller than the second cross-sectional area.

4. (Previously Presented) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the lead body has a first cross-sectional area at the tine interface section, and the lead body has a second cross-sectional area at a second area between the at least one tine and the lead distal end, and the first cross-sectional area is less than 10% smaller than the second cross-sectional area.

5. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the lead body has a first transverse dimension and a second transverse dimension each at a longitudinal location along the first recessed portion, and the first transverse dimension is greater than the second transverse dimension.

6. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one tine is defined in part by a tine length, and the at least one first recessed portion has a second longitudinal length, and the second longitudinal length is less than the tine length.

7. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the intermediate portion of the lead body has a first cross-section, the first recessed portion has a second cross-section, and the second recessed portion has a third cross-section, and the first cross-section, the second cross-section, and the third cross-section are each different from one another.

8. (Currently Amended) A lead assembly comprising:

at least one lead body extending from a lead proximal end to a lead distal end and having an intermediate portion therebetween, the lead body having a tine interface section;

at least one tine coupled with the lead body at a tine coupling portion, each at least one tine having a top surface and a bottom surface, the at least one tine having a first position extended away from the lead body, the at least one tine having a second collapsed position;

at least one first portion formed on the lead body at a first location along the tine interface section of the lead body, the at least one first portion having a first cross-sectional shape;

at least one second portion formed on the lead body at a second location along the tine interface section of the lead body, the at least one second portion having a second cross-sectional shape;

the first cross-sectional shape is different ~~that~~ than the second cross-sectional shape; and
the at least one first ~~recessed~~ portion longitudinally disposed between the tine coupling
portion and the at least one second ~~recessed~~ portion.

9. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the first cross-sectional shape has a substantially smaller cross-sectional area than the second cross-sectional shape.

10. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the first cross-sectional shape includes one or more recessed portions.

11. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the one or more recessed portions extend only a portion around a perimeter of the lead body.

12. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the second cross-sectional shape includes one or more recessed portions.

13. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the one or more recessed portions extend only a portion around a perimeter of the lead body.

14. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the at least one first portion is recessed away from the bottom surface when the at least one tine is disposed in the collapsed position.

15. (Original) A method comprising:

disposing a conductor within a lead body, the lead body including a tine interface portion;
coupling one or more tines with the lead body, the one or more tines collapsible from a first extended position to a second collapsed position, the one or more tines having a top surface and a bottom surface;

forming a first recessed portion along the lead body at a first longitudinal location along the tine interface portion, wherein forming the first recessed portion includes recessing the first recessed portion away from the bottom surface when the one or more tines are disposed in the second collapsed position; and

forming a second recessed portion along the lead body at a second longitudinal location along the tine interface portion.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising collapsing the one or more tines to the second collapsed position at a tine interface portion.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein forming the first recessed portion includes forming a non-circular cross-section at the tine interface portion.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein forming the second recessed portion includes forming a second non-circular cross-section at the tine interface portion.

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein forming the first recessed portion includes forming the first recessed portion with a smaller cross-sectional area than the second recessed portion.

20. (Original) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein forming the first and second recessed portions includes forming the first recessed portion with at least one of a different cross-section than the second recessed portion or a different cross-sectional shape than the second recessed portion.